

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A dishwasher, comprising:

a sump provided under a washtub ~~and configured to collect, wherein the sump collects~~
washing fluid therein;

a drain pump provided at a side of the sump ~~and configured to pump, wherein the drain~~
pump pumps washing fluid collected in the sump;

a drain passage with a first end in communication with the drain pump, and a second end
in communication with a backflow-preventing passage, wherein the backflow-preventing passage
includes an inverted U-shaped portion, wherein an inlet of the backflow-preventing passage is
connected to the second end of the drain passage so as to prevent washing fluid from flowing
backward, and wherein an upper portion of the backflow-preventing passage is disposed higher
than the sump;

a drain hose having an inlet end connected to an outlet of the backflow-preventing
passage; and

a check valve provided proximate the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage ~~and~~
configured to open and close, wherein the check valve opens and closes the inlet of the
backflow-preventing passage based on an operation status of the drain pump.

2. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the check valve ~~is configured to open~~opens the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage when the drain pump is actuated, and ~~to close~~closes the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage when the drain pump is not actuated.

3. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 2, the check valve comprising:

a sealing member which is hinged with respect to an inner surface of the backflow-preventing passage, wherein the sealing member ~~is configured to close~~closes the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage; and

a support member having a predetermined elasticity provided between the sealing member and a predetermined point of the inner surface of the backflow-preventing passage, wherein the support member ~~is configured to receive~~receives and elastically ~~support~~supports a distal end of the sealing member when the check valve is opened.

4. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, further comprising an annular rib ~~configured to receive~~which receives the sealing member upon closing, wherein the annular rib protrudes inward from an inner perimeter surface of the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage.

5. (Original) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, wherein the sealing member is formed of a rubber-based material.

6. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, wherein the support member comprises a spring ~~configured to bias~~which biases the sealing member towards a position where it closes the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage, wherein the spring is ~~configured to link~~links the sealing member to the predetermined point of the inner surface of the backflow-preventing passage, and ~~to be~~wherein the spring is controlled based on a pressure of water flowing in the backflow-preventing passage.

7. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 6, wherein the spring is ~~configured to push~~pushes the sealing member to close the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage ~~if~~when the pressure of washing fluid flowing in the backflow-preventing passage drops below a predetermined value.

8. (Original) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backflow-preventing passage is partitioned at one side of a dry air intake passage through which external air is drawn for drying.

9. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backflow-preventing passage comprises:

a first passage which extends between the second end of the drain passage and an inlet of the inverted U-shaped portion;

a second passage which extends between an outlet of the inverted U-shaped portion and the inlet end of the drain hose.

10. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first and second passages are each oriented substantially vertically.

11. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 9, wherein the check valve is provided within the first passage.

12. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 11, wherein, when the check valve is closed, the backflow-preventing passage ~~is configured such that~~ allows residual washing fluid contained within the second passage ~~drains to drain~~ out through the drain hose.

13. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 12, wherein when the check valve is closed, the backflow-preventing passage ~~is configured such that~~ contains residual washing fluid ~~is contained within~~ the first passage.

14. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 13, wherein, when the check valve is closed, the backflow-preventing passage ~~is configured to drain~~drains residual washing fluid contained within the drain passage into the sump.

15. (Currently Amended) A dishwasher, comprising:

a sump ~~configured to collect~~which collects washing fluid of the dishwasher;

a drain pump ~~configured to pump~~which pumps washing fluid out of the sump;

a drain passage having a first end coupled to an outlet of the pump;

a backflow-preventing device coupled to a second end of the drain passage, wherein the backflow-preventing device comprises:

a first backflow passage having an inlet end and an outlet end, ~~and~~ wherein the inlet end of the first backflow passage is coupled to the second end of the drain passage;

a second backflow passage having an inlet end and an outlet end; and

an inverted U-shaped portion extending between the outlet end of the first backflow passage and the inlet end of the second backflow passage;

a check valve provided proximate the inlet end of the first backflow passage ~~and configured to control~~, wherein the check valve controls a flow of washing fluid through the first backflow passage; and

a drain hose connected to the outlet end of the second backflow passage.

16. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher of claim 15, wherein the inverted u-shaped portion of the backflow-preventing device is positioned above the sump.

17. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher of claim 15, wherein ~~the check valve is configured such that~~ the check valve is open when the pump is pumping washing fluid out of the sump and through the backflow-preventing device, and the check valve is closed when the pump is not pumping washing fluid through the backflow-preventing device.

18. (Previously Presented) The dishwasher of claim 17, wherein when the check valve is closed, water is retained in the first backflow passage and water in the second backflow passage is allowed to drain out of the backflow-preventing device.

19. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher of claim 15, wherein the check valve comprises a sealing member pivotally attached to an inner surface of the first backflow passage, wherein the sealing member ~~is configured to open and close~~ opens and closes the inlet end of the first backflow passage.

20. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher of claim 15, ~~further comprising a drain hose connected to the outlet end of the second backflow passage,~~ wherein an upper portion of the

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backflow preventing passage is disposed higher than the sump and the drain passage, and wherein an outlet end of the drain hose is disposed lower than the second end of the drain passage.